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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,133	05/09/2006	Michael Didriksen	05432100N212US1	5885

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EXAMINER

RAMACHANDRAN, UMAMAHESWARI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
31 DAYS	02/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-20 are pending. Claims 2, 18 are canceled.

Lack of Unity

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1, 5-7 are drawn to a method of treating a disorder comprising administering a serotonin reuptake inhibitor and a GlyT-1 inhibitor.

Group II, claims 3, 4 are drawn to a method for augmenting and/or providing faster onset of the therapeutic effect of a serotonin reuptake inhibitor comprising administering a serotonin reuptake inhibitor reuptake inhibitor and a GlyT-1 inhibitor.

Group III, claims 8-11, 12-16, 19, 20 drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a serotonin reuptake inhibitor and a GlyT-1 inhibitor.

Group IV, claim 17 drawn to a kit comprising a serotonin reuptake inhibitor and a GlyT-1 inhibitor.

The inventions listed as Groups I –III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding technical features.

An international application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, the inclusion of those inventions in one international application is

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only permitted if all inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1). With respect to a group of inventions claimed in an international application, unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

The expression "special technical features" is defined in PCT Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical features that define a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. The determination is made on the contents of the claims as interpreted in light of the description and drawings (if any). Whether or not any particular technical feature makes a "contribution" over the prior art, and therefore constitutes a "special technical feature", should be considered with respect to novelty and inventive step.

The common technical feature in all the groups is serotonin reuptake inhibitor and a GlyT-1 inhibitor. This element cannot be a special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2 because the element is shown in the prior art.

Serotonin reuptake inhibitors have been known to treat depression (Andrews et al., J Affect Disord, 1998 May; 49(2):141-4) and Kinney et al. (The J of Neuroscience, Aug 20, 2003, 23 (20):7586-7591) teaches Glycine Transporter type I inhibitor such as N-[3-(4'-fluorophenyl)-3-(4'-phenylphenoxy)propyl]sarcosine. As a result, no special technical features exist among the different groups because the inventions in Groups I-IV fail to make a contribution over the prior art with respect to novelty or inventive step.

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In conclusion, there is lack of unity of inventions, and therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

If applicant elects Group I, applicant is further required to elect a single disorder from claim 1, a SRI compound from claim 6 and a GlyT-1 inhibitor from claim 7. If applicant elects Group II, applicant is further required to elect a single disorder from claim 4. If applicant elects Group III, applicant is further required to elect a GlyT-1 inhibitor from claim 11 and further elect a SRI compound from claim 12.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.1.43).

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Election

A telephone call to the attorney is not required where 1) the restriction requirement is complex, 2) the application is being prosecuted pro se, or 3) the examiner knows from past experience that a telephone election will not be made (MPEP § 812.01). Therefore, since the examiner knows from past experience that written restriction is preferred, a telephone election was not made.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Umamaheswari Ramachandran whose telephone number is 571-272-9926. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER